

Solar System Spinner



Create a spinner as a model of our Solar System!

Kit contains:

- Template with planets and the Sun
- Brass fastener (brad)

You will need: coloring supplies, scissors, and a hold punch or sharp pencil/nail to poke holes.



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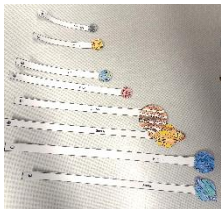
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INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Color the planets and the Sun.

(2) Poke a hole wherever you see black dots: one in the middle of the Sun and one on the end of each label strip.

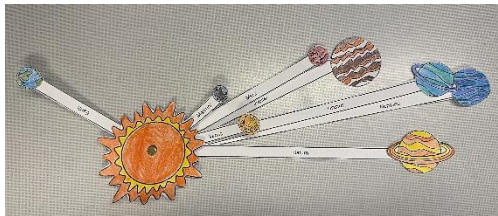
(3) Cut out the Sun, the planets, and the planet label strips. Then glue each planet to the end of its label.



(4) Push the brass fastener through the hole in the Sun. Then place the label strips in order of length (starting with the shortest) on the fastener behind the Sun.

(5) When you have all the strips in place, secure the fastener by bending the tabs open flat to either side. Be careful not to make it too tight or your planets won't be able to spin.

(6) The planets are set up in the same order they are from the Sun. You can spin them around to model how the planets orbit the Sun!

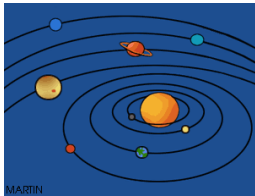


Even though your paper planets are different sizes, they are **not** to scale. In reality, the Sun is 10 times wider than Jupiter, and Jupiter is 11 times wider than Earth. If we made it to scale, the Sun would have to be HUGE or the planets would have to be really tiny.

When you spin the planets around the Sun one time, that is modeling each planet's year. The farther the planet is from the Sun, the longer it takes to make one orbit. One year on Earth is $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days. One year on Mercury is only 88 Earth days. One year on Neptune is 60,190 Earth days!

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SOLAR SYSTEM!

- Our Solar System consists of the Sun and all the objects that revolve around it.
- Objects in our Solar System include planets, dwarf planets, asteroids, comets, satellites, and moons.
- The four planets closest to the Sun are called the inner planets. They are all smaller, made of rock, and have few or no moons.
- The four planets farther from the Sun are called the outer planets. They are all bigger, made of gas, and have many moons.



BOOKS TO LEARN MORE



- *Star of the Party* by Jan Carr
- *The Sun Is Kind of a Big Deal* by Nick Seluk
- *Planet Name Game* by Tish Rabe
- *What Is the Solar System?* by Carmen Bredeson
- *Discover Our Solar System* by Colin Stuart